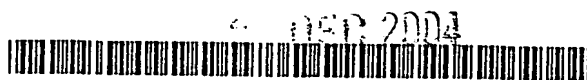


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(54) Title: **SURFACE MODIFIED STAINLESS STEEL**

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a stainless steel, which after nitriding exhibits a hardened surface layer with a hardness of at least 1200 Hv and which is in form of wire, plate, strip, tube and pipe and other geometries, especially complex geometries, particularly useful in applications with high demands on a combination of high strength and/or toughness and wear resistance and as substrate for coating.

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